

Remarks

To highlight the distinction of the above referenced invention over the prior art as interpreted by the Examiner in the Office Action of October 22, 2003, Paper No. 12, the claims were amended as set forth herein. Independent claim 5 was amended to more clearly define the subject matter of the invention and to incorporate the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner in the above subject action. The remainder of the objected to or rejected claims were canceled.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 9, 11, 15-19 and 21-30 under either one of 35 U.S.C. 102 or 35 U.S.C. 103 as set forth in detail in the referenced Office Action.

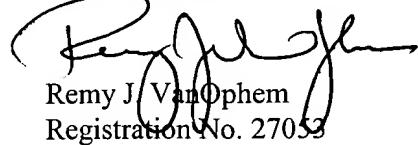
The Examiner further indicated that claims 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this response, the undersigned has amended claim 5 to incorporate the allowable limitations of dependent claim 7. Accordingly, amended independent claim 5 and dependent claims 8, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 20 are now in condition for allowance. All claims remaining in the application now being in condition for allowance, and with no further remaining issues in this application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance and pass this application on to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fee associated with this amendment to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 22-0212. A duplicate of this page is included.

If the Examiner has any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Applicant's attorney may be reached at (586) 739-7445.

Respectfully submitted,

VANOPHEM & VANOPHEM, P.C.

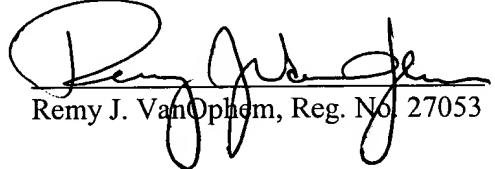


Remy J. VanOphem
Registration No. 27053

51543 Van Dyke Avenue
Suite 103
Shelby Township, MI 48316-4447
(586) 739-7445
Attorney Docket: LII161B US

Certificate Under 37 CFR §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 23, 2004.



Remy J. VanOphem, Reg. No. 27053